### **CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



# Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Request for Comments On a Draft Solicitation to Fund Electricity Saving Technologies and Strategies Benefiting the Industrial, Agricultural and Water Sectors

California Energy Commission staff is developing a competitive grant funding opportunity (GFO) to fund research associated with developing, validating, and documenting electricity saving, pre-commercial technologies and strategies benefiting the industrial, agricultural and water sectors. These sectors consume approximately 30 percent of California's electrical use and include energy intensive industries, such as chemicals, metals, cement and concrete, data centers, laboratories, wastewater treatment and food processing. Additionally, this solicitation will support the goals of Senate Bill 350 and Assembly Bill 32 through the EPIC Program. The Energy Commission staff tentatively plans to release the GFO in the summer of 2016. The following are potential focus areas for the GFO:

# **Group 1: Pilot Tests of Innovative Energy Efficiency Technologies**

This group will focus on the development and pilot testing of innovative and precommercial technologies or methods with direct energy efficiency or demand response benefits to industrial, agriculture or water applications. The pilot tests should provide data and analysis to estimate energy savings, demand response potential, water savings and other benefits, and customer costs. All technologies must result in direct reductions in electricity use through energy efficiency and not as a result of energy generation or storage.

# Group 2: Development and Validation of Demand Response Technologies and Strategies

This Group will focus on identifying demand response and load shifting potential in the Industrial, Agricultural and Water sectors, developing new technologies and innovative applications of existing technologies that facilitate load control automation, and identifying and pilot testing strategies and best practices that facilitate Demand

Response program participation and customer cost optimization under available tariffs structures.

# How do I provide comments?

All responses should be clear and address the following:

- 1. This solicitation emphasizes demand response potential and technologies. Is this an area of interest for the industrial, agriculture and water sectors? Are there particular barriers that need to be overcome to make demand response an attractive strategy? If so, please elaborate.
- 2. How can the proposed research described in the GFO result in the most energy efficiency benefit to the industrial, agriculture and water sectors?
- 3. Are there additional research areas that should be considered other than those listed? If so, identify and explain the needed research area including the reasons and the energy efficiency savings potential.
- 4. Is the funding split between group 1 (pilot tests) and 2 (demand response) appropriate?
- 5. We are contemplating an open solicitation that allows for receipt of applications at multiple periods. For instance, we could accept round 1 applications on September 1. If funds are available, then we go to round 2 and accept additional applications. Any comments on this approach?

Respondents to this Request for Comments should not include any proprietary, sensitive, or confidential information. This Request for Comments will not consider the merits of individual projects or any requests for funding. The Energy Commission will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this Request for Comments; all costs associated with preparing and submitting a response will be solely at the interested party's expense. There is not any preclusion to future participation for not responding to this Request for Comments.

## Where do I send my comments?

Submit comments to Paul Robinson by 5 p.m. on <u>Friday, May 20th, 2016</u> to: Paul.Robinson@energy.ca.gov. Please include your name and the name of the organization you represent. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft®Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf) and limited to three pages. Please include the title of the *Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Draft Solicitation Development in Industrial, Agricultural, Water and Demand Response Research* in the subject line.

### **EPIC Program Background:**

The California Energy Commission's EPIC Program invests about \$120 million annually in technologies that bring clean energy ideas to market to benefit the ratepayers of California's three largest electric investor-owned utilities. Funding for the EPIC program comes from rates charged the electricity customers of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

The Energy Commission is committed to supporting the inclusion of a diverse group of participants in the EPIC program including disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities

For additional information on the EPIC Program Second Triennial Investment Plan, please see (Initiative S1.5): www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/index.html.

For information on past-funded research projects please see http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/iaw/projects.html.

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

Paul Robinson California Energy Commission Energy Research and Development Division, MS-51 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

### **Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts**

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at <a href="PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov">PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov</a> or (916) 654-4489, toll free at (800) 822-6228.

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at <a href="mailto:lquiroz@energy.ca.gov">lquiroz@energy.ca.gov</a> or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

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